

**4720 Edgefield Road
Bethesda, MD 20814-4016**

January 15, 2002

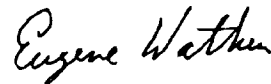
Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I work for a software development company and use Microsoft products in the office and at home. As I have seen, it is no mystery that Microsoft has employed some overly aggressive marketing techniques. However, as part of the settlement, Microsoft has pledged to tone things down and restore fair competition to the computer industry. Microsoft will be sharing more of their interface design and systems protocol with their competitors. Microsoft has also made it easier to run non-Microsoft programs within Windows, allowing computer makers to pre-install non-Microsoft software. A technical committee will monitor Microsoft and field complaints. To the software industry, these settlement terms have gone a long way to address concerns about Microsoft. Personally, I think the settlement is fair.

Our country is a free enterprise system and Microsoft has been punished for creating innovative products that have changed our American computer industry forever. Please do not allow this to continue. Microsoft has helped our economy in numerous ways. Please uphold this settlement and help maintain our American edge in the international marketplace. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Eugene Wathen